

Nevada Library Directors LSTA Survey Results

March 2017

The numbers:

Libraries responding: 33

19 Public
8 Academic
4 School
2 Special

Population:

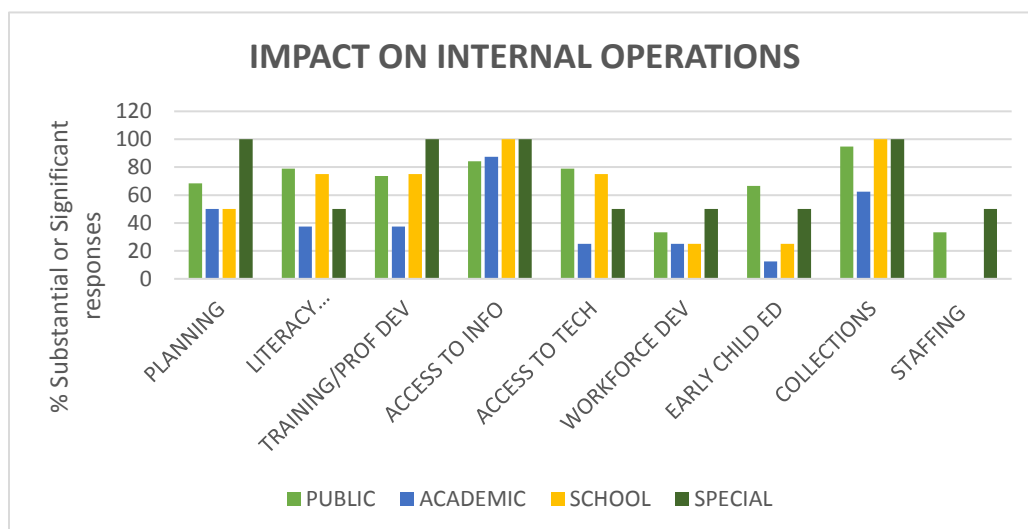
Less than 10,000 – 13
10,000-24,999 - 4
25,000-99,999 - 9
100,000-249,999 – 1
More than 250,000– 6

The results:

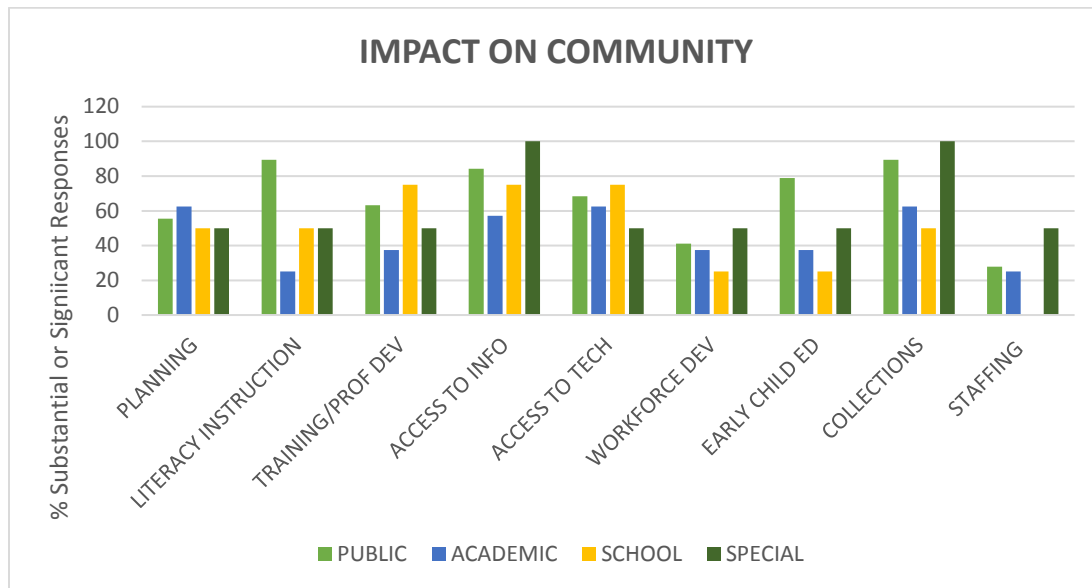
Overall, everyone agreed that **Collections (Physical and Electronic)** and **Access to Information** are the areas where LSTA funds have the most impact both internally and in the community. These categories received the most Substantial or Significant ratings (the highest ratings) from all library types. One library commented “LSTA funding is a vital source of income to develop our collection and offer services to our patrons that would otherwise not be available” and many mentioned the importance of the statewide databases for their patrons.

For **internal operations**, public libraries also ranked Literacy Instruction and Access to Technology highly and expressed the importance with comments similar to these: “LSTA funding has been very important in our Summer Reading Program. The manual that is made available to our Children's Librarians is very helpful in planning a successful program. This ensures we are offering programs that offer reading, vocabulary, self-expressing, science and a lot more to our participants to help them to continue to grow” and “Our current LSTA grant has allowed us to update our public access computers, which has opened up partnership opportunities that would not have been possible otherwise.”

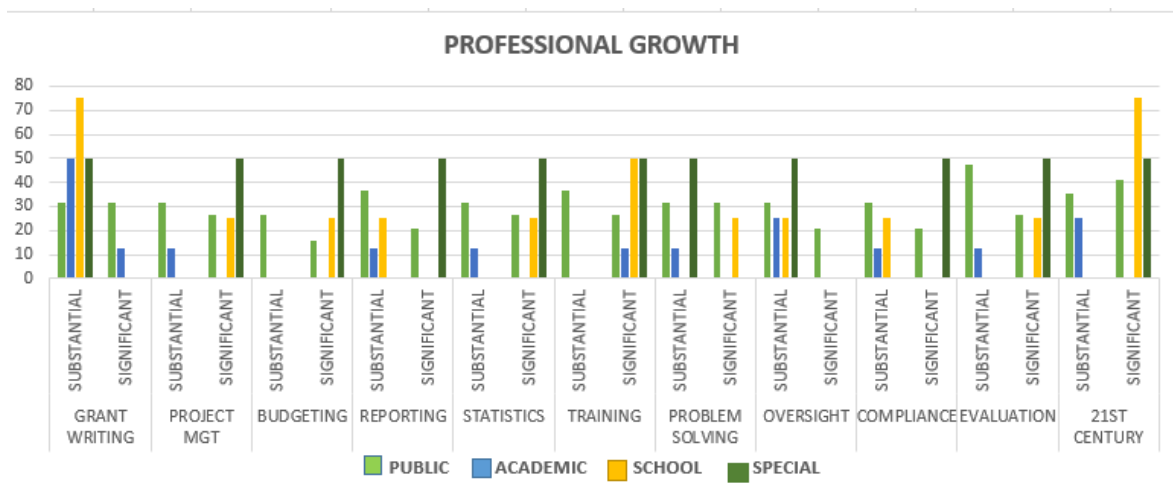
The two special libraries included Planning and Training/Professional Development as areas of substantial or significant impact.



There was a wider variety in responses when libraries were considering the **impact on community**. In addition to Collections and Access to Information, academic libraries also gave high ratings to Planning and Access to Technology. Public libraries included Literacy Instruction and Early Childhood Education while school libraries ranked Training/Professional Development and Access to Technology highly. LSTA funding for technology affects libraries both large and small as shown in the following comments- “The Youth Media Lab grant helped our organization launch services via mobile Mac labs, with video cameras, cameras, design and video software, boom mics, lighting, and DJ labs. These are the technologies of the next generation workforce” and “Provides our community with access to technology that otherwise wouldn’t be available to them. Our community is rural and isolated so sometimes the County Library is the only place some of the residents have access to technology.”

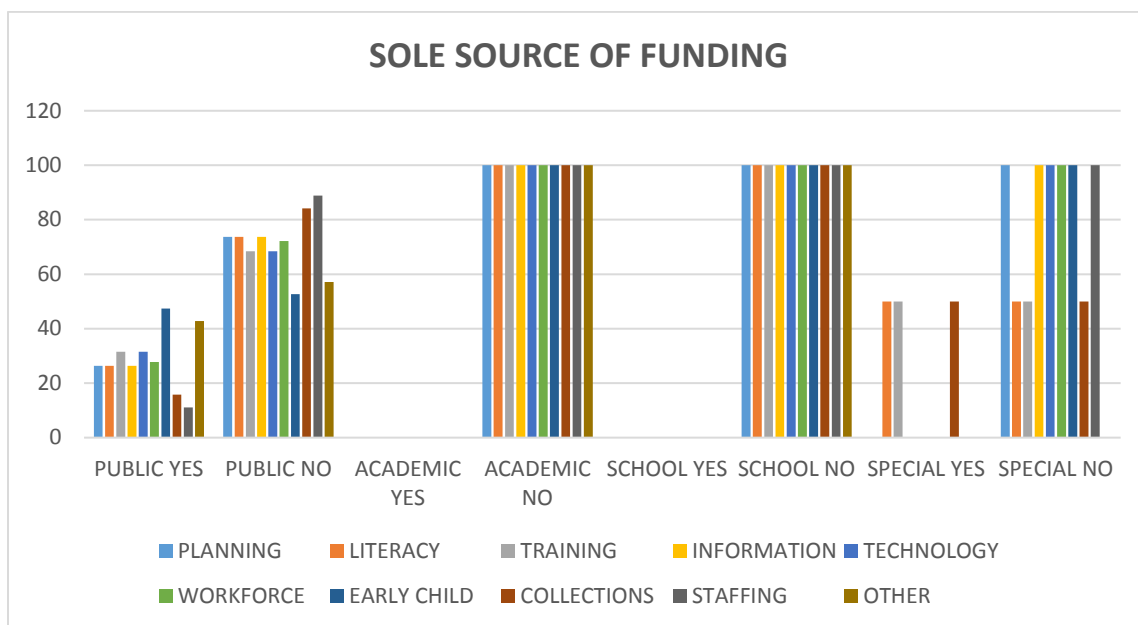


So far as **professional growth and staff development** were concerned, all library types gave the highest rankings to Grant Writing and Understanding 21st Century Librarianship. Academic libraries reported a much higher level of already existing staff proficiency in all categories than public and school libraries. Public libraries included Evaluation, Training/Instruction, and Problem Solving as areas of impact. A public library noted that “LSTA has increased the library director's aptitude in evaluation of resources. Having to quantify bang for your buck is really useful in telling the tale about how impactful libraries can be on their community” while another said “LSTA funding has had a significant impact on how staff view what the library can offer a community. Ideas for future grants are always being brainstormed and this is a forward-thinking exercise that bonds a staff.”



In response to **funding**, 47.37% of public libraries said that LSTA funds are their only source of funding for Early Childhood Education, and many libraries spoke to the importance of this role in early literacy. As one said: “We use LSTA funding to support storytime and summer reading with physical resources that we would otherwise be unable to afford. We also have an LSTA grant funded partner that does parenting classes teaching early childhood education.”

Academic and school libraries indicated that LSTA funds are not the only source of funding for any of the categories on the survey, but as a school library commented “Without LSTA funds, our school district would not have access to databases and digital resources.” Libraries also leverage LSTA funds for greater benefit: “An LSTA project started us working in STEAM programming which has become a major success, and attracted substantial funding from private donors.”



In summing up the importance of LSTA funds to communities, one library put it this way: “Since there are always budget cuts and school library budgets always get hit hard, sometimes this is the only way we can replace the old outdated information with new materials – and in multiple formats. This is in many cases the only funding available, and hence vital for programming and collections both in schools and public libraries. Thank you!” while another comment pointed

out the effect on the entire state: “LSTA funding, and the NSLAPR, has been extremely helpful in both direct and indirect ways for the Great Basin College Library. The funding for access to information and collections has had a direct impact on the GBC Library supporting both students and community patrons. And the funding has indirectly supported all patrons (students, faculty and staff) in the GBC service area (the state of Nevada)”.

The real effects of LSTA funding on the lives of Nevadans may be harder to express. One library put it this way - “We would still be what people think of as a library without LSTA funds. However, to be the community center that is, more and more, expected of us, there is no possible way to achieve that without LSTA funds. We have grown significantly more essential to our community thanks to LSTA funding.”